



Summary

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This product provides a range of information about the release of microdata from the Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS), Australia, June 2014 including details about the survey methodology and how to use the TableBuilder. Data item list and information on the conditions of use and the quality of the microdata, as well as the definitions used, are also provided.

Microdata are the most detailed information available from a survey and are generally the responses to individual questions on the questionnaire or data derived from two or more questions and are released with the approval of the Australian Statistician.

The CEaCS is collected every three years and is designed to provide a range of information about children aged 0–12 years and their families. The information collected includes the child care arrangements used by parents to care for their children, use of formal and informal care, cost and duration of the care and the attendance of children at preschool programs and other early childhood learning activities.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The following microdata products are available from this survey:

- TableBuilder – an online tool for creating tables and graphs.

Further information about these services, and other information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata in general, is available from the Microdata Entry Page.

Before applying for access, users should read and familiarise themselves with the information contained in the User Manual: TableBuilder (cat. no. 1406.0.55.005).

APPLY FOR ACCESS

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

Further information on access steps can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS web site.

If you are already a registered user [Login here](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the survey and this product can be found in the various pages associated with this product, and the related release Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0). This information includes:

- A detailed list of data item lists for the TableBuilder available in the Downloads tab
- The Quality Declaration in the Explanatory Notes tab
- Abbreviations and Glossary in the Explanatory Notes tab of Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0)
- Other related products can be found on the Related Information tab.

SUPPORT

For further support in the use of these formats, please contact Microdata Access Strategies on 02 6252 7714 or via microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Other data from the survey, not included in TableBuilder, may be available from the ABS, on request.

Subject to confidentiality and sampling variability constraints, special tabulations can be produced incorporating data items, populations and geographic areas selected to meet individual requirements. These are available, on request, on a fee for service basis. Contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or client.services@abs.gov.au for further information.

PRIVACY

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

Survey Methodology

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

General information about the 2014 Childhood Education and Care survey, including key findings, are available in the publication *Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014* (cat. no. 4402.0).

Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey collection methodology, estimation method and reliability of estimates can be accessed from the Explanatory Notes, Data Quality (Technical Note), Glossary and Abbreviations pages of that publication. All published summary tables, in Excel spreadsheet format, can be accessed from the Downloads page.

Data available in the TableBuilder product is identical to the data available in the publication summary tables and spreadsheets for the publication *Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014* (cat. no. 4402.0).

File Structure

FILE STRUCTURE

DATA AVAILABLE BY LEVEL

The format of the 2014 CEaCS TableBuilder is structured across four levels. The levels are:

1. Income Unit level
 2. Income Unit Care level
 3. Child level
 4. Child Care level

The Income Unit level and the Child level are linked with each other through an hierarchical relationship, i.e. each child at the Child level of the file is a member of an Income Unit. While the word 'family' is often used interchangeably with 'income unit' in CEaCS, the income unit may not include all members of a family, e.g. an employed 18 year old living at home but treated as a separate income unit. It should also be noted that, in families with more than two children aged 0–12 years, only two children were randomly selected for the survey with the complete set of information collected only for these children. Consequently, the Child level does not necessarily comprise all the children relating to the Income Unit. However, summary information was collected for the other child(ren) in the income unit, including the number attending child care and/or preschool and the cost of care, and this information is available at the Income Unit Care level. In households with multiple families information was only collected for the child(ren) from one family.

The Income Unit Care level is also linked to the Income Unit level. The Income Unit Care level contains records for the child care used by all children in the Income Unit for both the 'last week prior to the survey' and 'usually'. As

mentioned above, the Income Unit Care level also includes some information for the child(ren) in the family not selected for the survey, as parents were asked for aggregated cost of care and use of care data for the other child(ren) in the family.

The Child Care Level is linked to the Child level. The Child Care Level contains information about each child care arrangement used by the child(ren), both for the 'last week prior to the survey' and 'usually'.

Further information about each level is provided below.

Income Unit level

The Income Unit level contains information about each parent of the selected child(ren) aged 0–12 years including general demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, country of birth, labour force status, income and educational qualifications. This level also includes some household and family characteristics such as family composition and the number of children in the household. The geographic identifiers are also included on the Income Unit level (e.g. state/territory of usual residence, remoteness area).

Income Unit Care level

The Income Unit Care level contains information about each episode of care the income unit used to care for their child(ren). This includes the types of care used, the cost of the care after Child Care Benefits (CCB) and/or Child Care Rebates (CCR) are deducted and whether the family claimed or intended to claim the CCB. An income unit can be counted more than once in each of these data items, if the income unit used more than one instance of care.

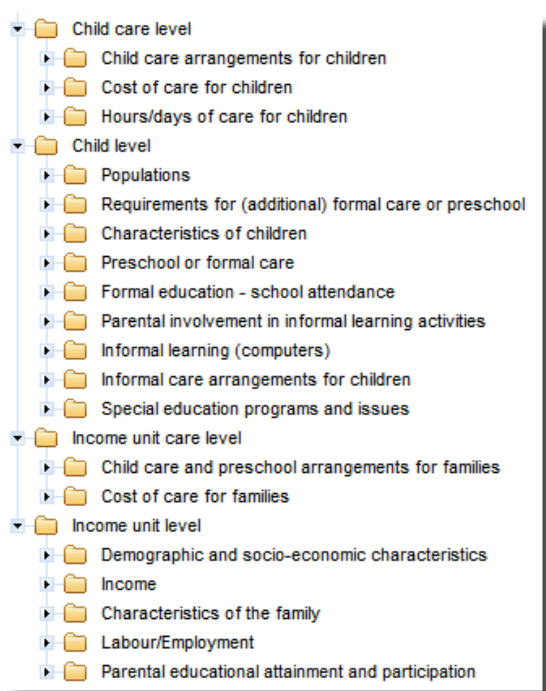
Child level

The Child level contains information about each selected child aged 0–12 years in the family such as age, sex, whether the child attends school, preschool or long day care, the main reasons for their use/non-use of child care services, school readiness and informal learning activities in which they have participated. A child can only be counted once, unless the data item is a multiple response item for that child.

Child Care level

The Child care level contains information about the child care arrangement(s) used by each selected child aged 0–12 years, both for the 'last week prior to the survey' and 'usually'. This includes each type of care used by the child, the frequency of use, weekly cost of care after the CCB and/or the CCR are deducted and whether the CCB and/or CCR was claimed for the care. A child can appear more than once in each data item on this level if they attend more than one type of care.

The following diagram shows a view of the four levels, as would be seen in TableBuilder, including the sub-categories under which the individual data items have been grouped. A complete data item list for TableBuilder can be accessed from the Downloads page.



SPECIAL CODES

Most data items included in the TableBuilder file include special codes for 'Not applicable', 'Not stated', 'Inadequately described' and/or 'Other' categories. These are shown in the data item list in the Downloads tab. TableBuilder does not include these codes when calculating sums, medians and means.

The 'Not applicable' category generally represents the number of people who were not asked a particular question or the number of people excluded from the population for a data item when that data was derived (e.g. Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable for people born in Australia).

The Income Unit level has data items which are specific to mother or father. For most of these data items the 'Not applicable' category represents no mother or father, respectively, in the income unit. The Family composition data item can be used to restrict a table to couple families or one parent families. There are a few mother/father data items where the 'Not applicable' category includes more than no mother or father in the income unit. For example, the 'Not applicable' category for the data item 'Weekly income of mother' refers to no source of income or no mother in the income unit. Similarly for 'Weekly income of father'. The 'Not applicable' category for the data item 'Weekly income of parent(s)' refers to no source of income.

POPULATIONS

The population relevant to each data item is shown in the data item list and should be considered when extracting and analysing the microdata. The actual population count for each data item is equal to the total cumulative frequency minus the 'Not applicable' category.

Generally, all populations, including very specific populations, can be 'filtered' using other relevant data items. For example, if the population of interest is 'Children aged 4-8 years who attend school', any data item with that population (excluding the 'Not applicable' category) can be used as a filter. There are also population data items available on the Child level.

Using TableBuilder

USING TABLEBUILDER

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ADJUSTMENT OF CELL VALUES

ZERO VALUE CELLS

For general information relating to the TableBuilder or instructions on how to use features of the TableBuilder product, please refer to the User Manual: TableBuilder.

Detailed information about the survey including scope and coverage, survey collection methodology, estimation method and reliability of estimates can be accessed from the Explanatory Notes, Data Quality (Technical Note), Glossary and Abbreviations pages of the publication Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0).

More specific information relevant to the Childhood Education and Care Survey (CEaCS) TableBuilder, which should enable users to understand and interpret the data, is outlined below.

MULTI-RESPONSE DATA ITEMS

A number of questions included in the survey allow respondents to provide more than one response. The data items resulting from these questions are referred to as 'multi-response data items'.

An example is shown below where a parent can report all types of involvement in informal learning activities last week with a child aged 0–2 years. (Note: the 'Not applicable' category comprises those respondents who were not asked the particular question, e.g. a child who is aged 3–12 years is considered 'Not applicable' to this data item).

When a multiple response data item is tabulated, the same record (or child in this case) is counted against each response they have provided (e.g. a child who was Read from a book, Assisted with drawing and engaged in Physically active play will be counted one time in each of those three categories).

A category exists for children who are in scope of the population but did not provide a valid response to any other categories (e.g. a child who did not have parental involvement in informal learning activities will fall into the category 'None of the above').

As a result, each child in the particular population is counted at least once, and some children are counted multiple times. Consequently, the sum of individual multi-response categories will be greater than the population or actual number of people applicable to the data item as respondents are able to select more than one response.

Multi-response data items are identified in the CEaCS TableBuilder data item list with *<multiple response>* appended to the data item name (e.g. Usual education/care/parenting arrangements in the two years prior to attending school *<multiple response>*).

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CONTINUOUS DATA ITEMS

The TableBuilder file contains a number of continuous data items that are available for selection from 'Summation Options' in the 'Customise Table' pane. Continuous data items are those data items which can have a response value at any point along a continuum. Continuous data items include cost of care and number of hours care used.

Some continuous data items are available as categorical data items with values grouped into categories. For example below, Cost of care is available as 'Cost of care in a usual week after the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate' and 'Cost of care in a usual week after the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate - categories' with cost categorised into \$25 ranges.

Some continuous data items are allocated special codes for certain responses (e.g. 9999 = 'Not applicable'). When creating ranges in TableBuilder for such continuous items, special codes will automatically be excluded. Therefore the total will show only 'valid responses' rather than all responses (including special codes).

For example:

The following shows the tabulation of the data item 'Age child first commenced long day care (in months)'. The continuous values of the data item are contained in the 'A valid response was recorded' row. 'Could not be determined' includes children for which the age they commenced long day care is not know. 'Not applicable' includes children not currently attending long day care. To show the actual continuous values in a table, a range must be created.

Children ↑↓	Age child first commenced long day care (in months) - continuous ↑↓⊕⊖	↑↓
Children (000's)	A valid response was recorded.	499.1
	Could not be determined	25.9
	Not applicable	3,322.5

Here is the same table with a range applied for the continuous values for the data item 'Age child first commenced long day care (in months)' (Age first commence LDC). Note that the numbers of children for the 'Could not be

determined' and 'Not applicable' categories no longer contribute to the table.

Children ↑↓	Age first commence LDC ↑↓⌚	↑↓
Children (000's)	Less than 12	161.1
	12 to less than 24	174.8
	24 to less than 36	94.8
	36 to less than 48	51.4
	48 or more	15.8
	Total	499.1

Any special codes for continuous data items are listed in the Data Item List.

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USING REPEATING DATASETS

The Income Unit and Child levels are counting units, whereas the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels are repeating datasets. The repeating datasets in the CEaCS are a set of data with a counting unit which may be repeated for a child or an income unit. The 'one to many' relationships, described in File Structure section, between the Income Unit level and the Income Unit Care level, and the Child level and the Child Care level, shows the connection between counting units and repeating datasets, i.e. an event or episode is repeated so that multiple records with the same set of data exist for the same child (or income unit).

For example, a child may have used more than one instance of child care such as (i) a long day care centre, (ii) family day care and (iii) grandparents. Consequently, three records would be present on the Child Care level for this child, representing a repeating dataset, with each record containing information for a common set of data items, e.g. Number of days of care used, Number of hours of care used, cost of the care and so on. Also, the child will have summary records in addition to the individual care records, described below.

In this example, although the three records all relate to a single child, any totals from the Child Care level are a count of child care arrangements.

Summary Records and Data Items

In addition to the general or base records present in the repeating datasets (i.e. on the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels) that, for example, provide details about each instance of child care, there are also 'summary' records that provide aggregate information for selected groupings of the types of care. For example, summary records are available for groupings of All formal care, All informal care, All care and preschool and All care excluding preschool.

In the example of a child who attended long day care, family day care and also received care from a grandparent, there are three base records on the Child Care level because they attended three separate instances of child care. For each record, the data item for the cost for the type of care was reported as \$38, \$10 and \$5 respectively. Therefore, the summary record for this child for the total cost of formal care (i.e. long day care and family day care) is recorded as \$48 (\$38 + \$10). Similarly, the summary record for this child for the total cost of all care (i.e. all three types of care) is recorded as \$53.

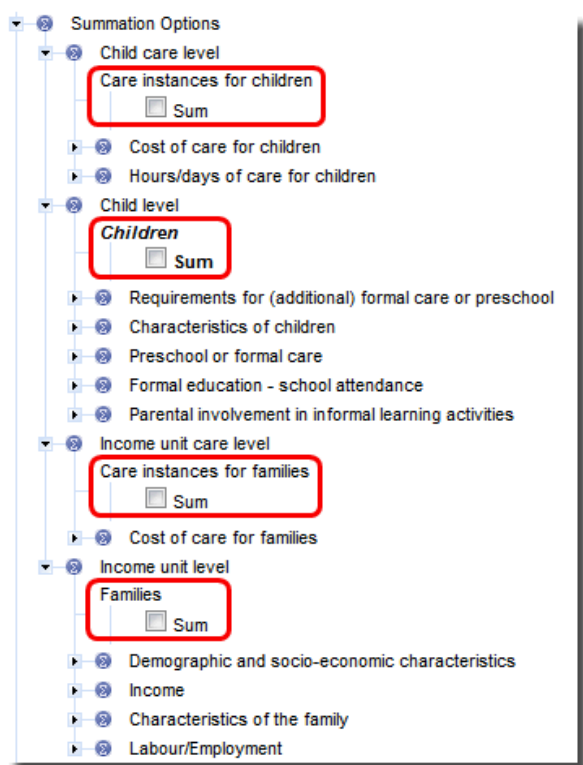
The following data items comprise the classifications that enable the data for these summary records to be tabulated:

Income Unit Care level - Type of care used by the family.
Child Care level - All types of care.

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COUNTING UNITS AND WEIGHTS

The **Summation Options** section in the **Customise Table** panel contains the counting units/weights that are available. It is critical that the correct weight (or summation option) is used when specifying tables. The names of the weights (summation options) for each level are highlighted below.



The default summation option in this TableBuilder is the Income Unit level weight (Weights). The default summation option will be automatically added to a table when the table is being specified - so care needs to be taken that this is the correct weight required for the particular tabulation. If the default weight is not the required weight then select the correct weight from the Summation Options list, because what is counted in a table depends on the weight or counting unit selected.

It is critical to use the correct weight (or summation option) for the data items you include in the table. Using the incorrect one will produce incorrect estimates. The weight corresponding to the lowest level data item in a table should be used. For example, if a Child care level data item is cross-tabulated with a Child level data item, the Child care level weight should be used. Similarly, if an Income unit care level data item is cross-tabulated with an Income unit level data item, the Income unit care level weight should be used.

In general, the Child weight is used if child estimates are required and the Income Unit weight is used if estimates of income units are required. Child Care level weights should be used when producing tables with data items from the Child Care Level. Income Unit Care level weights should be used when producing tables with data items from the Income Unit Care level.

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USING FLAG ITEMS

To enable easier table specification and to ensure that the correct populations, and hence the correct data, are being tabulated, a number of 'flags' have been included in the TableBuilder that should be used at all times when extracting data.

Usual or Last week

To differentiate between child care used in the 'last week prior to the survey' and care 'usually' used, data items (or flags) are available to restrict the population in a table for this purpose. These flags are on the Income Unit Care and Child Care levels.

It is imperative that these usual or last week care flags are used when any data items from the Child Care level or the Income Unit Care level are used, regardless of whether the care level data items are used alone or with other Income Unit or Child level data items. If these flags are not used for Child Care or Income Unit Care data items, the data will be incorrect.

The flags and their categories are:

Income Unit Care level

- Flag to indicate if any child in family used care usually
- 0. No children in the family used care usually

- 1. At least one child in the family used care usually
- Flag to indicate if any child in family used care last week
- 0. No children in family used care last week
- 1. At least one child in the family used care last week

Child Care level

- Flag to indicate whether care used usually
- 0. Care not used usually
- 1. Care used usually
- Flag to indicate if care used last week
- 0. Care not used last week
- 1. Care used last week

Labour force scope flag

In households where all adults were out on scope or coverage of the LFS, no information was obtained for the 2014 CEaCS. However, as long as at least one parent in the household was in scope for the LFS, information about children aged 0–12 years and some information about their parents were collected and included in the 2014 CEaCS.

There is a labour force scope flag (Labour force flag - indicating whether parent did not respond to LFS) to indicate whether the income unit is out on scope. This flag (present on the Income Unit level) indicates if one parent in a family was out on scope or coverage. Limited employment and demographic data are available for these families.

Information about the working arrangements used by parent/guardians to help care for their child was not available for parent/guardians who were out on scope or coverage of the labour force for any reason.

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CROSS-TABULATING DATA ITEMS FROM DIFFERENT LEVELS

General Information

Cross-tabulating data items from different levels will produce different results depending on the weights that are used. It is therefore important to understand how TableBuilder works and what is being counted. Estimates will always be produced in TableBuilder - but care must be taken to ensure that they are logical and correct.

In general, when cross-tabulating data items from different levels using the weight from the lower level, the results are the sum of the counting units or weights at the lower level. For example, if cross-tabulating 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit Level (i.e. the higher level) by 'Sex of selected child' from the Child Level (i.e. the lower level) while using the lower (Child) level weight, then the results will be the sum of children - as this is the counting unit on the Child Level. In simple terms, TableBuilder effectively copies the data from the higher level to each record on the lower level and then sums the relevant records at the lower level. In this example, the table will produce estimates of the number of male children and female children by State/Territory.

When cross-tabulating data items from different levels using the weight from the higher level things are more complicated and care needs to be taken. Under this scenario, fields at the lower level effectively become multi-response fields at the higher level and, in addition, each category in a data item is tabulated as 'one or more occurrences with the particular characteristic(s)'. For example, if there are two male children in the same Income Unit then the results are tabulated, and should be interpreted, as an estimate of the 'number of Income Units with one or more male children' - in this case the Income Unit is only counted once. If there is one male and one female child in the same Income Unit then the Income Unit is counted twice (i.e. multi-response) with the male child included in the estimate of the 'number of Income Units with one or more male children' and the female child from the same Income Unit included in the estimate of the 'number of Income Units with one or more female children'. It is important to note that the totals in these types of tables indicate the actual estimate of Income Units (i.e. each Income Unit counted only once) while the component cells, which contain the multi-response concept, will be greater than the total.

It is therefore critical that the construction of a table, when cross-tabulating data items from different levels using the weight from the higher level, is conceptually well considered. For some data items the data tabulated may not be particularly useful or logical. For this reason the CEaCS TableBuilder contains particular data items that enable easier and more logical specification of cross-tabulations. These data items comprise filtering or index data items, flags and population data items.

The main filtering or index data items are 'Type of care used by the family' on the Income Unit Care Level and 'All types of care' on the Child Care Level. Also, on both the Income Unit Care and the Child Care Levels, there are

flags that indicate whether care was 'usually' used or used 'in the last week' prior to the survey. And finally, some population data items (such as 'Children aged 0–8 years') are included on the Child Level.

These data items should be used in almost all tables as they restrict or filter particular populations and determine the correct types of care that have been used. More importantly, they eliminate many of the complexities when cross-tabulating data items from different levels. The following examples show how these data items are used.

Example 1: Cross-tabulating Child level data items by Income Unit level data items using different weights.

The table below uses the data items 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit level and 'Whether child attends school' from the Child level. The Child level weight is used as it is the lowest level. The result is a count of the number of children attending school by state.

Whether child attends school by Children and State or territory of usual residence



Counting: Children

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 36 (9 columns x 4 rows).

Children	Children (000's)							
State or territory of usual residence  	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory
Whether child attends school    	 	 	 	 	 	 	 	 
Attends school	718.7	521.0	488.4	151.8	259.5	46.4	19.6	
Does not attend school	120.1	114.8	67.8	24.7	32.6	10.8	2.9	
Age less than 4 years	396.0	297.5	252.4	81.2	136.6	25.2	11.6	

Using the same table as above, but replacing the Child level weight with the Income Unit level weight, the result is a count of the number of Income Units (i.e. Families) with at least one child attending school. If a family has a child attending school and a child aged less than 4 years this family will be counted twice. Therefore, 'Whether child attends school' is treated as a multi-response data item when the Income Unit weight is used.

Whether child attends school by Families and State or territory of usual residence



Counting: Families

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 36 (9 columns x 4 rows).

Families	Families (000's)							
State or territory of usual residence  	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory
Whether child attends school   								
Attends school	503.2	344.8	334.1	104.2	171.1	32.5	11.7	
Does not attend school	98.9	102.6	52.4	23.4	27.6	9.4	2.6	
Age less than 4 years	299.6	239.5	177.5	58.6	105.1	19.3	8.0	

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Example 2: Cross-tabulating Child level data items by Child Care level data items using Child Care level weight.

Most cross tabulations done within the CEaCS publication involved a data item called 'All types of care' found on the Child Care level. Understanding how this data item works is instrumental as it can result in miscounts if used incorrectly.

Below are the output categories for this data item:

- 00. No care or preschool
- 01. Before and/or after school care
- 02. Long day care centre
- 03. Family day care
- 04. Occasional care centre
- 06. Grandparent
- 07. Brother/sister

- 08. Non-resident parent
- 09. Other relative
- 10. Other person
- 21. All care and preschool
- 22. All formal care
- 23. All informal care
- 24. Preschool
- 25. All care excluding preschool
- 31. Used formal, used informal, used preschool
- 32. Used formal, used informal, no preschool
- 33. Used formal, no informal, used preschool
- 34. Used formal, no informal, no preschool
- 35. No formal, used informal, used preschool
- 36. No formal, used informal, no preschool
- 37. No formal, no informal, used preschool
- 41. Used formal care only (disregarding preschool)
- 42. Used informal care only (disregarding preschool)
- 43. Used both formal and informal care (disregarding preschool)
- 52. Family day care and Occasional care
- 61. Brother/sister and Other relative
- 62. Brother/sister, non resident parent and other relative
- 63. Brother/sister, non resident parent, other relative and other person

Categories 00 to 10 and 24 can be interpreted as a multi-response item within this data item. A child can have a response to any of these types of care and can appear more than once.

Categories 21, 22, 23 and 25 must be used when calculating totals for formal care, informal care and all care. This is because a child must only appear once when calculating totals. You cannot sum formal care types or informal care types as the total will not represent the sum value for each child, but the number of instances of each type of care, resulting in double counting. This is particularly important when cross-tabulating the 'all types of care' with another variable which may differ between different types of care for the same child (e.g. cost of care or days attended).

For example, consider creating a table cross-tabulating the type of care by cost of child care last week in \$25 ranges. If a child attended family day care at a cost of \$50 and occasional care at a cost of \$25, that child would appear once in the 'All formal care' row with a value of \$75. This is the result that will be produced by using the category 21 to get a total of 'all formal care'. If categories 01, 02, 03 and 04 were summed together to create a total for 'formal care', this child would appear twice in the 'total formal care' row, once with a value of \$25 and once at \$50. They would not appear with their true value of \$75 for cost for care. Similarly, if a child attended long day care 2 days last week and occasional care 1 day, the child would appear once in the 'All formal care' row with a value of 3 days. Again, if categories 01, 02, 03 and 04 were summed together to create a total for 'formal care', this child would appear twice in the 'total formal care' row, once with a value of 1 day and once with 2 days. This does not reflect the actual value, of 3 days, they attended formal care last week.

The table below is the number of children by the number of days care used last week by formal care types. It shows that the sum of the formal care types is not equal to the 'All formal care' category. For '2 days', the sum of the components is 264.3, whereas the total of 'All formal care' is 261.3.

All types of care by Care instances for children, Flag to indicate if care used last week and Number of week days care used last week 

Counting: Care instances for children

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 72 (12 columns x 6 rows).

Care instances for children		Care instances for children (000's)					
Flag to indicate if care used last week		Care used last week					
Number of week days care used last week		1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	Total
All types of care		↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
Before and/or after school care		73.6	73.7	52.3	35.0	48.8	280.2
Long day care centre		92.6	163.8	132.3	58.2	49.3	493.0
Family day care		21.3	24.3	18.6	10.0	16.4	90.1
Occasional care		15.0	2.5	0.0	1.6	0.0	19.3
All formal care		192.9	261.3	197.5	105.1	111.2	867.0

Categories 31 to 37 must also be used when calculating totals. For example, to determine how many children attend both family day care, grandparent care but don't attend preschool, use the 'Used formal, used informal, no preschool' category which is category 32. This is because if you group together these items (categories 03 and 06) to generate a total, then a child will appear twice in this total, resulting in double counting. Using category number 32 only counts the child once.

Three new categories have been added in 2014, these are '41 - Used formal care only (disregarding preschool)', '42 - Used informal care only (disregarding preschool)' and '43 - Used both formal and informal care (disregarding preschool)'. These differ from 34, 36 and 32' respectively. Category 41 combines 33 and 34 but ignores any preschool cost and hours attended. Similarly, category 42 combines 35 and 36, and category 43 combines 31 and 32. Categories 41, 42 and 43 should be used where preschool attendance is not of importance and is to be removed from the denominator of tables.

The 'All types of care' data item, includes responses for both attendance last week and usually. To generate frequencies for care usually used by the child, select the data item called 'Flag to indicate whether care used usually' and select 'Care used usually' and use this as a filter to restrict the table population. This same logic applies for tables generating frequencies for care arrangements used 'last week'.

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Example 3: Cross-tabulating Income Unit level data items by Child level data items by Child Care level data items using Child Care level weight.

The table below is a count of the number of instances of care for children aged 0–8 years who usually use care by state. It uses the data items, 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit level, 'Children aged 0–8 years' from the Child level and 'All type of care' and 'Care used usually' from the Child Care level. The weight used is the Child Care level weight as the lowest level used is Child Care level. In this example, as it is a count of the instances of care, 'Care used usually' or 'Care used last week' must be used otherwise some double counting will result. A total can't be calculated for 'All types of care' as this data item is treated as a multi-response data item. Totals are available in the summary records for the data item 'All types of care' (i.e. All care and preschool, All formal care, All informal care and All care excluding preschool).

All types of care by Care instances for children, Flag to indicate if care used usually, Children aged 0-8 years and State or territory of usual residence
Counting: Care instances for children

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 396 (36 columns x 11 rows).

Care instances for children	Care instances for children (000's)							
Flag to indicate if care used usually	Care used usually							
Children aged 0-8 years	Children aged 0-8 years							
State or territory of usual residence	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital
All types of care	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
Before and/or after school care	71.6	33.7	43.8	13.5	15.1	3.8	1.3	
Long day care centre	191.3	120.4	108.0	31.3	46.4	6.9	4.6	
Family day care	27.5	21.2	24.4	* 3.6	** 3.0	* 3.5	* 1.4	
Occasional care	** 2.2	* 6.9	** 1.9	* 3.0	* 4.3	0.0	0.0	
Grandparent	237.4	163.2	107.8	52.8	67.7	15.1	3.6	
Brother/sister	* 12.0	* 8.9	** 3.3	** 1.6	** 5.2	** 0.6	** 0.4	
Non-resident parent	24.3	* 21.5	18.2	8.8	12.5	* 2.5	** 0.9	
Other relative	31.0	33.8	* 7.8	* 8.5	14.1	* 2.5	* 1.4	
Other person	38.4	24.7	* 27.2	* 7.0	* 10.7	* 2.4	** 0.3	
Preschool	63.7	97.6	42.5	23.3	34.3	10.4	* 1.4	

Example 4: Cross-tabulating Income Unit level data items by Income Unit Care level data items using Income Unit Care weight.

The table below is a count of the number of instances of care for families with at least one child usually using care by state/territory. It uses the data items, 'State or territory of usual residence' from the Income Unit level and 'Type of care used by family' and 'At least one child in the family used care usually' from the Income Unit Care level. The weight used is the Income Unit Care level weight as the lowest level used is Income Unit Care level. In this example, as it is a count of the instances of care, 'At least one child in the family used care usually' or 'At least one

child in the family used care last week' must be used otherwise some double counting will result.

Type of care used by the family by Care instances for families, Flag to indicate if any child in family used care usually and State or territory of usual residence
Counting: Care instances for families

For further information see [About this data](#), [Data Confidentiality](#), [Relative Standard Error](#)

Table cell count, including totals: 72 (18 columns x 4 rows).

Care instances for families		Care instances for families (000's)							
Flag to indicate if any child in family used care usually		At least one child in the family used care usually							
State or territory of usual residence		New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	ACT
Type of care used by the family		↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓	↑↓
All formal care		240.7	161.6	145.3	39.9	56.7	11.9	6.0	
All informal care		295.6	211.8	145.4	63.7	88.7	20.0	5.7	
Preschool		65.4	92.4	45.6	21.8	33.5	9.5	1.8	

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ADJUSTMENT OF CELL VALUES

To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics. After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as TableBuilder.

ZERO VALUE CELLS

Tables generated from sample surveys will sometimes contain cells with zero values because no respondents that satisfy the parameters of the cell were in the survey. This is despite there being people in the population with those characteristics. That is, the cell may have had a value above zero if all persons in scope of the survey had been enumerated. This is an example of sampling variability which occurs with all sample surveys. Relative Standard Errors cannot be generated for zero cells. Whilst the tables may include cells with zero values, the ABS does not publish such zero estimates in Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0) and recommends that TableBuilder clients do not use these data either.

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Data Item List

DATA ITEM LIST

A complete list of all data items included on the Childhood Education and Care TableBuilder file is provided in an Excel spreadsheet that can be accessed from the Downloads page. The population applicable to each data item is also shown.

TABLEBUILDER DATA

Data items are generally available for cross-tabulation using the TableBuilder, although some restrictions may apply.

A list of data items available for use with the TableBuilder, including relevant population and classification details, can be found on the Downloads tab.

For a complete list of all data items included on the TableBuilder, refer to the Excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab. The data item spreadsheet has 5 worksheets;

- table of contents
- data items on income unit characteristics
- data items on income unit care characteristics
- data items on child characteristics

- data items on child care characteristics

Conditions of use

CONDITIONS OF USE

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Census and Statistics Act 1905 includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering ABS questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure' and 'Microdata' on the ABS web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act, data in TableBuilder are subjected to a confidentiality process before release. The release of microdata must satisfy the ABS legislative obligation to release information in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation.

This confidentiality process is applied to avoid releasing information that may lead to the identification of individuals, families, households, dwellings or businesses.

Prior to being granted access to TableBuilder, users must agree to the following ABS Terms and Conditions of Microdata Access:

- understand that the ABS has taken great care to ensure that the information on the survey output record file is correct and as accurate as possible and understand that the ABS does not guarantee, or accept any legal liability whatsoever arising from, or connected to, the use of any material contained within, or derived from TableBuilder.
- understand that all data extracted from the survey output record file through TableBuilder will be confidentialised prior to being supplied and that as a result, no reliance should be placed on small cells as they are impacted by random adjustment and respondent and processing errors
- users inform the ABS, through their Contact Officer, upon leaving their organisation that their access is disabled
- not provide their TableBuilder user ID and password access to any other person or organisation.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS Conditions of Sale. Any queries relating to these conditions should be emailed to intermediary.management@abs.gov.au.

PRICE

Microdata access is priced according to ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. For details refer to ABS Pricing Policy. For microdata prices refer to the Microdata prices page.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCESS

Clients wishing to access the microdata should read the [How to Apply for Microdata](#) web page. General microdata information is available via the Microdata web pages. To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides participating universities with access to a range of ABS products and services. This includes access to microdata. For further information, university clients should refer to the [ABS/Universities Australia Agreement](#) page.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Microdata Entry Page contains links to microdata related information to assist users in understanding and accessing microdata. For further information users should email microdata.access@abs.gov.au or telephone (02) 6252 7714.

PRIVACY

The ABS Privacy Policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

About this Release

The following microdata product is available from the Childhood Education and Care Survey, June 2014
- TableBuilder

To apply for access to TableBuilder, register and apply in the Registration Centre.

This product provides data on child care arrangements for children aged 0-12 years, early childhood education and learning for children aged 0-8 years, some aspects of families' requirements for formal care or preschool and the education, income and working arrangements of parents with children aged 0-12 years. A detailed list of data items is available on the Downloads tab.

The microdata enables users to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure the integrity of data and maintain confidentiality of respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

Approved users can combine information about child care arrangements, children and parents to enable in-depth studies of child care issues.

CEaCS files are arranged in a hierarchy, made up of the following 4 levels:

- Income unit
- Income unit care
- Child
- Child care

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Actively involved

Active parental involvement refers to parents' behaviour during the activity. Actively involved parents take part in the activity with the child. For most activities, this excludes simply watching the child engaging in the activity, however transporting the child to and from sport, outdoor games or other physical activities and remaining with the child during the activity, are included.

Additional formal care or preschool required

Includes instances in which children were already attending care or preschool and parents wanted them to attend more, as well as instances in which children did not attend any care or preschool and parents wanted them to attend. Does not include instances in which parents/guardians want to change service providers but not type or quantity of service.

Approved care

Child care providers that meet the requirements of the Australian Government quality assurance system, such as having a license to operate; qualified and trained staff; and meeting health, safety and other quality standards.

Before and after school care

Care provided for school aged children before school, after school, during school holidays and on 'pupil free days'.

Estimates of children's attendance at before and after school care include children who attend only before school care, only after school care, or both.

Child Care Benefit (CCB)

Assistance in the form of a payment made by the Australian Government to help with the costs of child care for families who use a child care service approved by, or registered with, the government.

Child Care Rebate (CCR)

The Child Care Rebate covers 50 per cent of out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved child care up to the maximum legislated amount per year per child. The Child Care Rebate is available to families who have used approved child care during the year, been eligible for Child Care Benefit and have passed the work, training, study test some time during the week the approved care was provided.

Cost of care

Within this publication, cost of care is reported as the net cost of care to the parents after the CCB and CCR have been deducted.

Couple family

A couple family is based on two persons who are in a couple relationship and who are usually resident in the same household. To be included in CEaCS, a couple family must also have at least one child aged 0-12 usually resident. A 'couple relationship' includes same-sex couples.

Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. Only families with children aged 0-12 years are included in CEaCS.

Family day care

A type of formal care provided in the home environment of a registered carer.

Father

The male parent or guardian usually resident in the same household as the child.

Formal care

Regulated care away from the child's home. The main types of formal care are long day care, before and/or after school care, family day care and occasional care.

Full-time/part-time workers

Full-time workers are employed persons who usually work 35 hours or more a week as well as those who, although they usually work less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week. Part-time workers are employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.

Government establishment

Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed principally by a state, territory or federal government agency.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

A Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.

Informal care

Non-regulated care either in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes paid or unpaid care by: (step) brothers or sisters, grandparents, other relatives (including a non-resident parent), other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters and other organisations (e.g. crèche at gyms and health centres).

Informal learning

Unstructured learning activities that occur in daily life, such as reading, musical activities and physical activities.

Last week

The survey reference week. For interviews conducted between 8 and 14 June 2014, the reference week was 1 to 7 June. For interviews conducted between 15 to 21 June, the reference week was 8 to 14 June. For interviews conducted for the additional follow up in September, the reference week was 24 to 30 August 2014.

Long day care

A centre-based form of child care service providing all-day or part-time care for children.

Mean

The value often referred to as the 'average'. The mean of a variable is calculated by summing the values of all observations in a data set and then dividing by the number of observations in the set.

Median

The value that divides the population into two equal parts.

Mother

The female parent or guardian usually resident in the same household as the child.

Multiple response

Indicates that more than one category can be chosen for a particular data item.

Non-government establishment

Includes any preschool/kindergarten conducted or managed by a non-government institution or organisation, including a Catholic school or preschool/kindergarten or an independent school or preschool/kindergarten.

Non-resident parent

A child's natural or adoptive parent who is not usually resident in the same household as the child.

Occasional care

Services usually provided at a centre on an hourly or sessional basis for short periods or at irregular intervals.

One parent family

A one parent family is based on a person who has no spouse or partner usually present in the household, but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household. To be included in CEaCS, a one parent family must have at least one child aged 0-12 years usually resident.

Other person care

Informal care by an individual who provides care but is not a relative and is not registered under the family day care program (including friends, babysitters and nannies).

Other relative care

Informal care by relatives of the child excluding parents, (step) brothers and sisters and grandparents.

Parent/guardian

Natural, step, foster or adoptive parents are considered parents in CEaCS. A guardian is a person who has the designated responsibility for a minor child, whether or not it is a legal or informal arrangement. In this publication, when the term 'parent' is used, this includes guardians.

Preschool

A structured, play-based education program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher, primarily aimed at children in the year before they commence full-time schooling. The program may be delivered in a dedicated preschool, a long day care centre or other educational setting.

Registered care

Child care provided by persons and institutions that are registered with the Department of Human Services as registered care providers.

Remoteness

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) was used to define remoteness. The Remoteness Structure is described in detail in the publication Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 5 - Remoteness Structure, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.005).

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

A suite of indexes created from 2011 Census data. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia. Each index summarises a different set of social and economic variables.

Weekly income of parents

Total gross income received from all sources by the parent or parents in the family.

Work arrangements

Arrangements such as flexible working hours, or working from home, used by employed parents to assist them to care for their children.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
CCB	Child Care Benefit
CCR	Child Care Rebate (formerly known as Child Care Tax Rebate: CCTR)
CEaCS	Childhood Education and Care Survey
NECECC	National Early Childhood Education and Care Collection
ERP	Estimated Resident Population
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MOE	margin of error
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
Qld	Queensland
RSE	relative standard error
SA	South Australia
SE	standard error
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The Childhood Education and Care survey (CEaCS) is conducted throughout Australia every three years in June as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program.

In CEaCS 2014 additional follow up of just over 500 outstanding households to increase sample numbers was conducted in September 2014. These additional interviews had a reference week of 24 to 30 August 2014 rather than the 1 to 7 June or 8 to 14 June 2014 reference weeks for the June interviews. The June interviews accounted for 92% of all fully responding records. Approximately 83% of selected households were fully responding to CEaCS, resulting in 4,635 household records and 7,126 children records.

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

TableBuilder files are released in accordance with the conditions specified in the *Statistics Determination 1983* made under section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* (CSA). This ensures that confidentiality is maintained whilst enabling micro level data to be released. More information on the confidentiality practices associated with TableBuilder can be found at the Survey Confidentiality Page.

RELEVANCE

The Childhood Education and Care survey provides information about child care arrangements and early childhood education for children aged between 0–12 years of age.

As CEaCS was conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) persons excluded from the LFS were also excluded from this survey (see Explanatory Notes of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for standard LFS exclusions). Additional exclusions from this survey were any non-residents visiting Australia (diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia, or non-residents otherwise visiting Australia), and residents of non-private dwellings such as hospitals, hotels and motels. Persons in all Indigenous Communities were again excluded from CEaCS in 2014.

Information collected in the survey included: usual care arrangements (types of care, duration and cost); care arrangements used in the survey reference week (types of care, duration and cost); attendance at a preschool or preschool program (usually or in the survey reference week); need for additional formal care or preschool; early childhood education and learning activities.

TIMELINESS

The ABS has been conducting similar surveys since 1969. Until 2005, these were known as the Child Care Surveys. Data from the most recent survey (in the form of html and data cubes) were released on 28 April 2015. The microdata products are released approximately 12 months after enumeration is completed.

ACCURACY

The microdata contains finer levels of detail of data items than what is otherwise published in other formats, for example, in Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0). For more information on the level of detail provided, please refer to the data item list in the Downloads tab.

Steps to confidentialise the data made available in TableBuilder are taken in such a way as to maximise the usefulness of the content while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents selected in the survey. As a result it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all the statistics produced from TableBuilder with other published statistics. Further information about the steps taken to confidentialise the microdata is available through the Using TableBuilder page.

COHERENCE

The ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey. Sound survey practice, however, requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. For changes between iterations of the survey, please refer to the Explanatory Notes section of Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0). For a full list of changes made to the LFS, see Chapter 20 of Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2013 (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001) and Information Paper : Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics, May 2015 (cat no. 6292.0)

After each Census, population estimates are normally revised back five years to the previous Census year. As announced in the June 2012 issue of [Australian Demographic Statistics](#) (cat. no. 3101.0), intercensal error between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses was larger than normal due to improved methodologies used in the 2011 Census Post Enumeration Survey. The intercensal error analysis indicated that previous population estimates for the base Census years were over-counted. An indicative estimate of the size of the over-count is that there should have been 240,000 fewer people at June 2006, 130,000 fewer in 2001 and 70,000 fewer in 1996. As a result, Estimated Resident Population estimates have been revised for the last 20 years rather than the usual five.

Consequently, estimates of particular populations derived from CEaCS 2014 may be lower than those published for CEaCS 2011 and previous years as the CEaCS estimates have not been revised. Therefore, comparisons of CEaCS 2014 estimates of the number of children with previous years should not be made. However, for comparable data items, comparison of rates or proportions between years is appropriate.

INTERPRETABILITY

The information within this product should be referred to when using the microdata. It contains information including Survey methodology, File structure, Using TableBuilder, Conditions of use and the Data item lists.

The Explanatory Notes section of the Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 (cat. no. 4402.0) includes information on terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with the Childhood Education and Care survey.

ACCESSIBILITY

Microdata products are available to approved users. Users wishing to access TableBuilder should read the How to Apply for Microdata web page, before applying for access through the [Registration](#) page. Users should also familiarise themselves with information available via the Microdata web pages.

A full list of all available microdata can be viewed via the [List of expected and available Microdata](#).

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